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Letter dated 18 February 1999 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Acting on instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a letter from the Sudanese Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Mustafa Osman Ismaiel, concerning the Conference of the so-called Sudanese armed opposition which Uganda has welcomed in order to forcibly overthrow the legitimate Government in the Sudan.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Elfatih ERWA
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 18 February 1999 from the Sudanese Minister for Foreign Affairs addressed to the President of the Security Council

I regret to inform you and, through you, to inform the members of the Security Council that the Ugandan regime continues to interfere openly in the internal affairs of the Sudan by hosting the Conference of the so-called Sudanese armed opposition which was held from 8 to 12 February 1999 in Kampala. In the presence of the Minister of the local government, Colonel Kahinda Otafiire, the Minister in charge of security, Mr. Muruli Mukasa, read a message from the Minister in charge of matters relating to the presidency, Mr. Ruhakana Rugunda, in which the latter emphasized the need to continue the armed struggle in order to overthrow the legitimate Government of the Sudan.

In the final declaration published at the close of the Conference, the participants reaffirmed the need to continue the struggle and the policy of violence in order to overthrow the legitimate Government of the Sudan and that they were going to use additional means to destabilize the Sudan and to sow disorder there.

The fact that that Conference, which brought together armed terrorist groups, was held in Kampala, the material and logistics support which the Ugandan Government is giving to these groups by allowing them to meet in Uganda and the fact that Ugandan leaders spoke at the Conference openly inciting the participants to resort to violence against the Sudanese Government shows to what extent the Ugandan authorities want to harm the Sudan. These acts cast an ominous shadow on the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of the Sudan and peace and security in the region and on the African continent which has suffered considerably from wars and struggles, and they constitute a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of all international customs and instruments.

The Sudan has kept the Security Council regularly informed of the grave practices which Uganda was engaging in and of the Ugandan leaders' expansionist aims. This information is confirmed by the facts and the issues before the Council and by the immoral behaviour of Uganda which has sought to destabilize the Great Lakes region. Moreover, Uganda has publicly confessed to having invaded a sovereign African country, citing pretexts which have no foundation and which are incompatible with international customs and instruments.

The interference by the Ugandan regime in the internal affairs of the Sudan and of neighbouring African countries has become a grave phenomenon to which the Security Council must put an end in order to preserve the stability of the Sudan but also to preserve peace and stability throughout the region. In this connection, we wish to recall that, at informal consultations held on 11 February, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and members of the Council issued a warning against the military adventurism of certain African countries which were aggravating the armed conflicts in the continent. Uganda is a perfect example of such countries which embark in vain on this type of

adventurism which sows destruction on the continent and aggravates the suffering of the African people whose priority should be to put their energies and their capacities to work for development.

While informing you of the acts of aggression committed by the Ugandan regime and the hostile intentions which it harbours towards the Sudan, I express the hope that the Security Council will carry out the responsibility entrusted to it by the Charter of the United Nations, namely, to preserve security and stability in the region and international peace and security by compelling the Ugandan regime to renounce its irresponsible actions.

(Signed) Mustafa Osman ISMAIEL
Minister for Foreign Affairs